

In 1992, nine-year-old Amber Hagerman was kidnapped and brutally murdered in Arlington, Texas. Amber's death had such a profound impact on her community that it prompted law enforcement and broadcasters to develop an innovative emergency alert plan to help recover abducted children.

The Utah Attorney General's Office, Utah Department of Public Safety, Utah Chiefs of Police Association, Utah Sheriffs' Association and the Utah Broadcasters Association launched Utah's alert plan in April, 2002.



The Rachael Runyan Award was later created to honor Utah citizens who help in the recovery of an abducted child. The award is named after Rachael Marie Runyan. The three-year-old girl was murdered in 1982 after she was kidnapped while playing with her brothers at a park in Sunset, Utah.

Does the AMBER Plan Work?

Tremendously! AMBER Plans have assisted in the recovery of more than 200 children in the United States. Utah was the ninth state to adopt a statewide AMBER Plan. Today every state has a statewide child abduction alert plan, and on April 30, 2003, President George W. Bush signed a bill creating the National AMBER Alert Plan.

The AMBER Plan not only helps to recover abducted children but also acts as a deterrent to this type of crime. It sends a strong message that crimes against children are intolerable and that law enforcement, broadcasters and the public, working together, have the power to rescue abducted children and apprehend their predators.

Utah has an advisory committee to maintain the program's effectiveness. The committee establishes policies and procedures, provides training for law enforcement and broadcasters, reviews each activation to ensure accuracy, and promotes the program to the community.

For More Information

Utah Attorney General's Office
(801) 538-9600
www.attorneygeneral.utah.gov

**Utah Bureau of Criminal Identification
(Utah Missing Persons Clearinghouse)**
(801) 965-4446
www.bci.utah.gov

Utah Department of Public Safety
(801) 965-4461
(800) 222-0038
www.publicsafety.utah.gov

Utah Department of Transportation
(801) 965-4000
www.dot.utah.gov

Utah Broadcasters Association
(801) 486-9521
www.utahbroadcasters.com

Utah Chiefs of Police Association
www.utahchiefs.org

Utah Sheriffs' Association
www.utahsheriffs.com

**National Center for Missing and
Exploited Children (NCMEC)**
(800) THE-LOST (843-5678)
www.missingkids.com

This brochure was printed courtesy of



AMBER ALERT

Utah's Child Abduction Alert System

www.attorneygeneral.utah.gov/AL/amberalert.htm

What is the AMBER Plan?



Utah's AMBER Plan—America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response—is a voluntary partnership between law enforcement agencies and broadcasters to send out an emergency alert to the public when a child has been abducted and it is believed the child's life is in grave danger.

Under the AMBER Plan, Utah radio and television stations initially interrupt programming to broadcast information about the abducted child using the Emergency Alert System (EAS). The public is also notified through flyers, electronic road signs, e-mails and other means.

AMBER Plan Guidelines

- The AMBER Plan is ONLY activated by law enforcement
- It is ONLY used for serious child abduction cases
- It should NOT be used for runaways or custody disputes unless the circumstance is life-threatening to the child

AMBER Plan Criteria

- Law enforcement believes a child has been abducted
- The child is 17 years of age or younger
- Law enforcement believes the victim is facing imminent danger, serious bodily injury or death
- Public information is available that could assist in the safe recovery of the victim or apprehension of a suspect

What happens when Utah's AMBER Plan is activated?

- The Emergency Alert System interrupts radio and TV programming for alerts
- Electronic highway and business signs post alerts and the suspect's vehicle information
- Highway advisory radio transmitters and the travel information phone line (511) provide information
- The Bureau of Criminal Identification sends more than 9,000 flyers with photos and details
- All Utah law enforcement agencies are notified
- Ports of Entry inform all of their officers
- The Utah Trucking Association contacts all of their agents in the field
- The public can, upon request, receive alerts by e-mail, pager or any text messaging device
- The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is contacted

What You Can Do

The public plays an essential role in the success of the Amber Alert. The plan relies on citizens to help locate abducted children before it's too late.



- Tune in to your local TV and radio stations for updated information about the abducted child or suspect. You can also call 511, Utah's Travel Information Line.
- Go to www.bci.utah.gov for more information and to sign up to receive alerts by e-mail, pager or any text messaging device.
- Be on the lookout for the child and suspect described in the alert message. The alert will



include a telephone number so you can report sightings to that number as soon as possible. Call 911 if you are unsure of the number.

If you witness a child abduction, call 911 immediately. Be sure to note important information such as the physical characteristics of the child and suspect, the make and model of any vehicles involved (including license plate numbers if possible), and the precise location of the abduction.

Endangered Person Advisory

If a case doesn't meet the criteria for an AMBER Alert, an officer can notify law enforcement, media and the public by issuing an Endangered Person Advisory through the Utah Criminal Justice Information System (UCJIS). The Endangered Person Advisory can be used in cases where the person is missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances and is believed to be in danger. More information can be found on the Attorney General's web site.